

AGENDA ITEM IV C 1

PROPOSED CURRICULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

Request to Terminate the A.S. Programs in Drafting/Design Technology, Office Administration, and Word Processing

STAFF COMMENT

McNeese State University requests the termination of its A.S. programs in Drafting/Design Technology, Office Administration, and Word Processing for the following reasons:

1. The University, consistent with previous recommendations of both the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, has determined that the offering of select associate-level programs on its campus should be reconsidered in light of the University's evolving role, scope, and mission.
2. The University has determined that some existing associate-level programs are essential University offerings and some are not. Associate programs which the University plans to retain include only those which also support related baccalaureate programs. The three programs proposed for termination are stand-alone degrees with no related baccalaureate programs.
3. Louisiana Technical College-Sowela Campus offers similar A.A.T. programs in Drafting/Design Technology, Office Systems Technology, and Occupational Education (Word Processing) which are planned for conversion to A.A.S. programs in the near future. As LTC-Sowela is proximate to McNeese and also serves the same population of students which are routinely attracted to these programs, McNeese has determined that there is little justification for duplication in these areas.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff concurs with McNeese's request and commends the University for its self-review.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the request from the McNeese State University to terminate its A.S. programs in Drafting/Design Technology (CIP Code 48.0101) , Office Administration (CIP Code 52.0401), and Word Processing (CIP Code 52.0401), effective immediately.

AGENDA ITEM IV C 2

PROPOSED CURRICULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

Request to Consolidate Separate A.S. Programs in Process Plant Technology, Electronics Technology, and Instrumentation Technology into a Single A.S. in Engineering Technology Programs with Concentrations

STAFF COMMENT

McNeese State University requests the consolidation of three existing A.S. programs in Process Plant Technology, Electronics Technology, and Instrumentation Technology into a single A.S. program in Engineering Technology with concentrations in each specific subject area. If this request is granted, the three current A.S. Technology programs would be terminated and a consolidated A.S. in Engineering Technology program would be approved.

STAFF SUMMARY

As a new program is envisioned, the summary which follows adopts the format usually used by staff to examine such requests.

1. Need

There appears to be a continuing need for associate-level training in engineering and related technologies in the Greater Lake Charles area. Over the past five years (AY 1994-1999), the three current Technology programs at McNeese have averaged numbers of completers/year as follows: Electronics Technology - 12.2; Instrumentation Technology - 12.6; and Process Plant Technology - 49.2. **It should be noted that the content and design of current programs will change, however, as it is proposed that they be reformulated into a single Engineering Technology program (requiring accreditation by the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology - ABET) as compared to separate, multiple Technology programs (requiring accreditation by the National Association of Industrial Technology - NAIT).** This may, or may not, affect numbers of enrollees and completers at McNeese.

2. Duplication

A proximate technical college, the Louisiana Technical College-Sowela Campus, currently offers the A.A.S. in Process Technology, the A.A.T. in Industrial Electronics Technology, and the A.A.T. in Industrial Instrumentation. The College plans to upgrade the two A.A.T. programs to A.A.S. degrees within a short period of time. When all three programs have achieved A.A.S. status, they will be eligible for accreditation through NAIT. The primary focus of these programs at LTC-Sowela is terminal technical training.

Comparing LTC-Sowela current Technology programs with the proposed consolidated Engineering Technology program at McNeese, the staff concludes that there will be substantive differences. McNeese will offer a single, consolidated program rather than separate subject area degrees. As an Engineering Technology program, Regents policy requires the University to attain accreditation through ABET. The focus of McNeese's program shall be twofold: preparation for further baccalaureate study and terminal training.

Hence, the staff concludes that the proposed consolidated A.S. program in Engineering Technology at McNeese will not directly duplicate current and projected Technology programs at LTC-Sowela. The distinction between programs offered by these two institutions, however, could be easily blurred if one or the other school decides to exceed their current role for technical education in the Greater Lake Charles area.

3. Appropriateness to Role, Scope, and Mission

As currently stated in the 1994 Master Plan, the proposed consolidated Engineering Technology program is appropriate to McNeese's role, scope, and mission. The staff notes that while associate-level Engineering Technology programs nationwide are often found at two-year community colleges, they occur less so at two-year technical colleges. It is also relevant to observe that LTC-Sowela does not currently or will in the near future possess the necessary resources to offer such programs and meet ABET accrediting requirements. In the absence of a comprehensive community college in the region, it would therefore appear that McNeese should assume responsibility for Engineering Technology education in the area.

4. Curriculum

The consolidated A.S. program in Engineering Technology will require a total of 71-73 hours, as follows: 29 hours of General Education coursework; 24 hours of Core Engineering Technology coursework; and 18-20 hours of Concentration coursework. The proposed curriculum meets Board of Regents' General Education Requirements and appears to meet curricular requirements mandated by ABET for program accreditation.

5. Resources - Faculty, Library, Facilities, Equipment

The University indicates that all current and projected resources for the existing three A.S. Technology programs will be devoted to the consolidated A.S. in Engineering Technology program. An external consultant (Dr. William Clark of ABET-TAC) has assessed McNeese's resources and has concluded that they should be sufficient to guarantee a program of quality. Accordingly, the University does not project the need for any additional state funding to accomplish this request.

6. Administration

The consolidated A.S. in Engineering Technology program will be administered through the College of Engineering and Technology, Department of Engineering Technology. No administrative changes will be required.

7. Accreditation

Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Professional Program Accreditation requires that all associate-level programs in Engineering Technology receive and maintain accreditation through ABET. As previously mentioned, Dr. Clark of ABET-TAC, reviewed McNeese's proposal and made recommendations for changes deemed essential to obtain ABET accreditation. The University has implemented these changes and proposes to seek ABET accreditation according to the following schedule:

Request for Candidacy	-	Fall, 2001
Submittal of Self-Study	-	Summer, 2002
On-Site Review	-	Fall, 2002
Final Accreditation Decision	-	August, 2003

8. Budget

McNeese states that all monies currently used to fund existing associate programs in technology will be redirected to afford the consolidated A.S. program in Engineering Technology. The current departmental budget is \$580 K; the anticipated departmental budget for next year will be approximately \$518K and will remain so for the next year. It is relevant to observe that as a result of another request from the University to terminate A.S. programs in Drafting/Design Technology, Office Administration, and Word Processing there will be significant cost-savings available to the University to support the consolidated A.S. program in Engineering Technology. In addition, Engineering Technology faculty at McNeese will be able to apply for special funding through the University's H.C. Drew Foundation Fund.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff supports McNeese's request to formulate a consolidated A.S. program in Engineering Technology. The University has been pro-active in formulating this request, engaging the services of an eminent external expert to review their proposal and make recommendations for needed changes to assure accreditation through the ABET. The University has wisely implemented the consultant's suggestions and has presented the Board of Regents with a quality proposal. The consolidated program is appropriate to the University's mission, program need appears justified, the curriculum is well-designed, and necessary resources seem to be readily available. As provided by Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Professional Program Accreditation, the University must obtain appropriate accreditation (ABET) for the program within three years of program implementation.

It should be noted that the staff contacted both Dr. Jerry Pinsel, Interim Vice President for Instruction and Learning at the Louisiana Technical and Community College System, and Mr. Stanley Leger, Chancellor of LTC-Sowela, to discuss the ramifications of McNeese's proposal upon the affected System and campus. Both were highly supportive of the University's proposal, observing that the broad range of Engineering Technology/Technology programs to become available in the Greater Lake Charles area as a result of this request will greatly benefit the community as a whole.

The staff cautions that it will be critical for both McNeese and LTC-Sowela to abide by the division of educational responsibility for engineering technology/technology education in the Greater Lake Charles area, as suggested by this proposal, to avoid unnecessary program duplication. The staff will monitor future program developments at both institutions to assure that such duplication does not occur. It is also important that both institutions continue and expand upon current efforts to promote articulation of coursework and credit transfer. Given the closely related nature of Engineering Technology and Technology, it would appear that there would be ample opportunities to implement some curricular efficiencies and coordination between McNeese and LTC-Sowela.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the request from McNeese State University to:

- 1. Consolidate existing A.S. programs in Process Plant Technology, Electronics Technology, and Instrumentation Technology into a single A.S. in Engineering Technology program (CIP Code 15.9999) with concentrations in each subject area.; and***
- 2. Terminate the A.S. programs in Process Plant Technology (CIP Code 15. 9999), Electrical Technology (CIP Code 15.0303), and Instrumentation Technology (CIP Code 15. 0404), effective immediately.***

In accordance with Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Professional Program Accreditation, the University shall obtain accreditation from the Accrediting Board of Engineering and Technology for the A.S. program in Engineering Technology by December 15, 2003.